bPv 652.10.1 (1)

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass. April 26 1902

My dear Mr. Brewster

Frazar has written that you were anxious to get the Gyrfalcon shot in Braintree and I have just written him that any bird that he has purchased for me and that you wanted, should be given to you; or in other words you must have the first call on any rare bird he gets.

A word about this Gyrfalcon. Before you buy the bird I should investigate a little. A year or two ago Chas K. Reed of Worcester had a gray Gyrfalcon sent to him to mount. It was shot, I think near Braintree (I may be wrong) by a farmer who called it a "white hawk." On investigating, for I was very anxious to get the bird, I found that it was an escaped specimen. A man somewhere about there had bought a live bird of a

sailor and had kept it for a year, when it made its escape and was shot. I have written Reed about the facts. Of course, this bird may not be the one, but I thought I would to tell you.

I am looking forward to seeing you at Lancaster soon.

With kind regards to Mrs Brewster,

I am,

Most Sincerely Yours

Wm E. Rayner

P. S. I cant tell you how much I enjoyed, "Voices of a New England Marsh"

Thayer—John E.
Apr. 26, 1902.

50 State Street,

Boston, Feb 20-04

My dear Mr. Brewster

I am glad you are enjoying the good air of Bethel, for you are lucky to escape the weather we are having. I went out to Cambridge to see you and found out from Mr. Deane of your illness. I am sorry you have had such a miserable winter, but it is a long road that hasn't a turn and I'm sure you will be yourself again from now on.

A terrible tragedy happened to my three little Burrowing owls. A Screech Owl (not one of mine) entered the cage and took up his abode in the snug quarters I had make for the Burrowing Owls. The man on feeding them could only find two. The next day only one. Then he took down the little house and found all that remained of Burrowing Owls were three carcasses and the Screech Owl sitting up in a corner. All the other birds have stood the winter wonderfully, although

50 State Street,

Boston.

as you know it has been a little "chilly". The Barn Owl has thrived and is in splendid plumage.

There is a man in Leominster whose brother was a great collector and travelled all over the world. His name was Flood. Perhaps you may have heard of him. While collecting last year he was killed by Natives. His brother says he has about 1000 skins which he would like to give to some Museum and I told him to give them to the Agassiz Museum. He wants to give them as a memorial to his brother. Please let me know whether the Museum would like them and to whom I shall send them.

I have sent Bangs man off to the Pearl Islands for one year.

I had ~~splendid~~ shooting at Currituck last month. There was a wonderful flock of Snow Geese. Three or four thousand birds! I shot some for Mr. Dutcher. He wanted some very much.

I have added greatly to my collection this winter. My Museum has been terribly set back by this awful weather.

Sincerely

John E. Thayer

Thayer—John E.

Feb. 20, 1904.

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass., Aug 20 1904

My dear Mr. Brewster

I am going to reserve a few skins for exchange and I have agreed to give Mr. Bangs a few, the rest I give to the Museum, also all the Reptiles, Insects and Mammals.

In regard to the Flood collection, Mr. Oliver Flood wanted to give it to me for my Museum. I told him I didn't collect Australian birds and advised him to give the collection to the Agassiz Museum, which he did. His brother was killed in Australia by natives.

I hope we shall see you in Lancaster before long. Prof Sargent is here working us hard on Catalpas.

Sincerely

John E. Thayer

Thayer - John E.
Aug. 20. 1904.

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass, May 20th 1905

My dear Mr. Brewster

Wont you come to Lancaster on Wednesday and make us a visit and stay as long as you possibly can? Mrs Rayer has some surprises for you in her wild garden and she is most anxious to see you, so you must come.

I found a nest of a Solitary Vireo with four fresh eggs, May 16th. Isnt this very early? Found three Hairy Woodpecks nests - April 22 with 2 fresh eggs - May 10th with 4, half incubated - May 13 with 4 fresh. I have learnt a lot about these birds this year and can tell you some funny yarns.

Sincerely

John E. Rayer

P.S. If you cant come Wednesday come any day. Dont bother with clothes -

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass., May 24 1905

My dear Mr. Brewster

We are delighted that you are coming Friday. I will meet you at the Lancaster station.

We have made two great finds this season. Last Sunday we found two full sets (5 eggs) of Wilson Thrushes, parent bird and nests. I will tell you all about it when you come up. Herbert Parker and Dr. Ernest Codman were with me. The eggs in both sets were heavily incubated. The second set was within 200 yards of the first in the same swamp. Set No 1 was in an upturned tree and just above it was an old nest, which the bird had evidently used last year. The second set was sunk in a bank.

Today I found the nest of a Red-breasted Nuthatch with six eggs in the Parker's Woods. It was just two years ago today (May 23-1903) that I found a nest of this bird in this wood, but it contained young.

Sincerely

John E. Thayer

Maplehurst Farm,
Lancaster, Mass., June 7 1905

Dear Mr. Brewster

Thank you very much for the dates of the Lincoln Finches and the Yellow-rumped Warbler.

We didn't find the Henslow's nest, or even hear the bird. I am afraid the cows last year drove them away from that pasture.

I found another set of Veery Doves on the ground and took several photographs but I am afraid I didn't have very good light.

Sincerely
John E. Thayer

I hope you will come to Lancaster

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass. May 17 1906

My dear Mr. Forster

I am very sorry to hear that you have had such a bad time with your nest. Of course we shall be disappointed at not seeing you Sunday, but hope to have the pleasure in June. I was interested in your account of the Broad-winged Hawk. You may rest assured that she has her eggs in one of those squirrel nests. I have found them repeatedly in old squirrel nests. As a rule when they use their nests, they will put a branch of green leaves in it when they are ready to lay. Why they do this I can not imagine as it is early season

When they are incubating, they rarely leave their nest until you begin to climb the tree and then they will fly only a very short distance. They keep uttering their peculiar Phoebe-like cry, moving their tails from right to left. Rarely the male puts in an appearance unless the eggs are well incubated. I think as a rule they prefer to build in deciduous trees.

Whenever they make that scream and remain near by, you may be sure they have a nest. I have never seen it

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass. May 17 1906

tail.

I took a set of 3 yesterday in a chestnut, 35 ft from the ground. Incubation had just begun. The bird was on the nest and remained there until Harriman began to climb the tree and then only flew a short distance. ~~from the nest~~. The moving of the tail from a side to side, when the bird is watching her nest being robbed, is very characteristic.

I am sure your birds have laid. I should look over the Squirrel nests and investigate some of the chestnuts and oaks. I have never found more than three eggs, usually two.

Sincerely

John E Thayer

P. S. My brother is not hatching any Partridges.

I shot a beautiful Bay-breasted on the 15th. It is a very rare Spring migrant here. Did you know we found a Lynx refus in the Parker's wood? It was dead, probably from eating poisoned fox meat. Bangs came up and took it to Cambridge, stinking, full of beetles and maggots. He is going to make a skeleton out of it.

Thayer – John E.
May 17. 1906

Hapkhurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass, May 22 1906

Dear Mr. Brewster

On Sunday we found the Water thrushes singing and found one nest almost complete. It should be ready to be "picked" next Sunday. Last year we took two sets on May 21 and they were both heavily incubated. The Rhodora was in full bloom in the swamps and the wild Calla lilies half out. Some day I want to show you this wonderful place.

I have spotted a Sharp-shinned Hawk's nest. I am glad to say the Red-tails are coming back. Perhaps the pheasants are responsible - I hope so. You did not seem surprised about our Lygus rufus. Isn't it a rare Massachusetts record?

Mrs. Rayn's garden is beautiful now. She sends her kind regards and is very sorry she is to hear that you are "layed up. She has found Viola rotundifolia growing in Lancaster, which she has never found before.

Mrs Jack Elliot is coming up today. I wish you were here.

Sincerely

E. Rayn

I am going to B. Pond on May 31

Thayer—John E.
May 22, 1906.

Maplehurst Farm.

Lancaster, Mass. Aug 20 1906

Dear Mr. Brewster

The Birds of the Cambridge Region clad in a beautiful dress, arrived today. I cant thank you enough for this lovely present. I shall enjoy reading every word of it.

I hope it has been cooler at Cambridge than at Lancaster for the last two days.

Mrs. Bagg sends her kind regards and says she has visited her garden and is ready for you to come.

Sincerely Yours

John E Bagg

Maplehurst Farm.

Lancaster, Mass, Sept 3 1906

My dear Mr. Brewster

I dont remember whether I told you I had bought the Brewinger collection of bird skins. I find on going over it that I have large series of some of the birds - These duplicates I should like to give to the Agassiz Museum, if you approve. I think that there will be two or perhaps three hundred skins of Arizona birds.

The large birds are well made, but the smaller birds are only fair. All these skins I have poisoned.

Sincerely Yours

Wm E. Dyer

Maplehurst Farm.

Lancaster, Mass., June 10th 1907

Dear Mr. Brewster

On Sunday I took a set of 5 fresh eggs of a Solitary Vireo. Isn't a set of five very unusual?

I have taken two more sets of Broad-winged [illegible] and two more Sharp-shinned since you were here.

On the 6th I shot a beautiful Mourning Warbler.

I have discovered a new swamp. It looks most promising and I am in hopes of finding something interesting. I shot a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and saw two more. I also saw what I thought were Alder Flycatchers. If I am not mistaken they breed very late. This swamp looks like a very good place for them. I did not hear or see any Olive-sided.

I hope you will be able to come to Lancaster soon again.

Sincerely Yours

John E. Thayer

Maplehurst Farm.

Lancaster, Mass., June 24 1907

Dear Mr. Brewster

We found the Water Thrushes breeding again in Lancaster, not in the same swamp, but close to it. The birds had young that could fly. I collected a young bird. I also found a turtle that I have seen before. I have sent it to Prof. Garman.

We didnt find the Yellow-bellied Flycatchers.

I have just received three sets of Bicknell's Thrush from Seal Island. I sent young Tufts who collected the Crossbills. He saw Yellow Palm Warblers, but was too early to get their eggs.

I think I have landed Childs, Labrador Duck and all.

Sincerely Yours

Wm E. Rayner

THAYER MUSEUM
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

July 24-1908

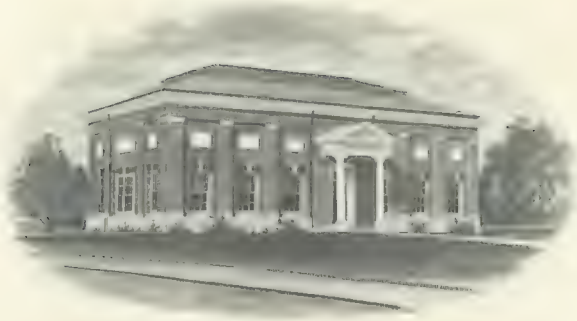
My dear Mr. Brewster.

I was delighted to get your letter, but sorry I hear that you were suffering from sciatica.

I should be delighted to have the members of the A. O. U. visit my museum — if you think they would like to come. I will guarantee that they won't go away hungry. Nothing however must be said about the canary-one experience is enough. He has however been talking all summer; in fact we can't stop him. He begins early in the morning and keeps it up all day. He has made many converts.

Brown has sent me a wonderful lot of birds from La Paz. 113 Mangrove Warblers; 23 Fraser's Green Heron and 6 Belding's Rails. He only took one nest of the Mangrove Warbler as he was too early. I also got some fine eggs from Armstrong, who was at Tamaulipas. Mexico. A large series of the Texan Kingfisher and Coppery-Tailed Trogons and a Mexican Goshawks.

My Chinese specimens I took also



THAYER MUSEUM
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

arrived - Mammals, insects, butterflies and about 5000 birds. I have never seen such a fine lot of birds. Some with wonderful plumages and odd shapes. A pheasant with a tail four feet eight inches - a wonderful looking bird. Most of these I shall turn over to the Cambridge Museum after I have had some fun with them; all the other specimens I have already turned over to Mr. Henshaw.

Mrs Raya, Natalie and Duncan are at Tobey's Island; Jack is out West and Nora is at Cape Breton, as you see I am alone with one daughter and my birds.

Write me whenever you can as I always like to hear from you.

I wish you would come to Lancaster and make me a long visit. Dr. Raya will take the best of care of you and you can do just as you please! No one will bother you.

Always Sincerely Yours

Gerald H. Thayer

Hazlehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass., Jan. 15 1911

Dear Mr. Brewster

I have just seen my first Evening Grosbeaks of Lancaster. On my way home from church just opposite the burying ground, near my father's place, I heard a strange whistle and looking around I saw three Evening Grosbeaks light on the ground under some Spruces, not over 25 ft from where I stood. They were eating some sort of seeds on the ground. This being the Lord's day I can't shoot them. I shall be

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass., Dec. 15, 1911

up bright and early tomorrow. There were two females (at least that is what I thought as they were dull-colored) and a bright colored male.

Do you consider the record of the *Lark Sparrow observed in Berlin, Mass. Sept 25, 1910 all right? Berlin was at one time a part of Lancaster and that is why I am interested.

Sincerely

John E. Thayer

*Auk XXVIII Jan. 1911 - No. 1 - Page 114

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass., April 30 1911

My dear Mr. Brewster

Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to have you make me a visit and stay just as long as you can.

I am planting one thousand apple trees. If I live, I hope to have 5000. They will pay for many expeditions, provided they get good care. I propose to give it to them. My family call me "Apple Jack."

Do come whenever you can.

Sincerely

John E. Thayer

Hopkhurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass, May 28th 1911

Dear Mr. Brewster

Herbert Pinder was right about the Blk-throated Blues. I went up to the place today and heard a male in full song, after hunting a little, we found the nest. I flushed the bird and shot her and took a beautiful set of four fresh eggs.

We then found a Solitary Vireo with four eggs. After lunch we found another Blk-throated Blue's nest with four eggs. Both nests were in Kalmia. We located another pair, but couldn't find the nest.

Not bad luck for Sunday!

Sincerely

John E. Wright

P.S. The swamp was in Sterling - there were some splendid trees. Cedar and White Pines and more Kalmia than I have ever seen about here.

. Mapleburst. Farm.
Lancaster, Mass, April 20 1912

Dear Mr. Brewster

Thank you ever so much for the scions, which I am delighted to have. I shall have them grafted to a vigorous tree and hope they will do well.

I am looking for your killdeer, but as yet he has not appeared.

I am going to tell you a secret. I have recently bought two more duck's eggs. I am so afraid my family will find it out and put me in some home for lunatics that I haven't told a soul but you.

I now have ten eggs - I shall never buy another. Perhaps when I have "turned my toes up" they won't think I am quite so crazy.

I hope you will come to Lancaster whenever you have a chance. You know how delighted both mrs Rayn and I are to see you.

Sincerely
Wm E Rayn

P.S. The Titanic disaster has depressed me terribly

. Hapleshurst . Farm .

Lancaster, Mass. June 28th 1912

My dear Mr. Brewster

You will be interested I know to know that I have had four Killdeers on my duck pond for the last ten days. They seem to come in the morning and stay until about ten and then fly off in the direction of the big Clinton reservoir. They always come back in the afternoon and feed and then return. On the 26th I shot two as I had no record of this species for Lancaster. They proved to be adult birds in worn plumage and the female looked as if she had been incubating.

The next day the other two came back and are at the pond now (Friday). I shall not disturb them.

My pond is low and the shores afford good feeding ground for all kinds of waders; on the other hand the reservoir is filled right up to the shore. My theory is that these birds bred there last season and with the low water [illegible] but this year they found ideal conditions, but when they tried it again this season, they found the conditions altered and had to hunt up another feeding ground.

Sincerely,

John E. Thayer

P.S. I wish you would come up if you can

. Hopkinson. Farm.

Lancaster. Mass. July 3rd 1912

Dear Mr. Brewster

Both Mrs. Dayer and I are delighted that you are able to come to Lancaster on Saturday.

The Killdeers are still there and strange to say on June 30th two more were seen, making four in all. This was after I shot two, June 26th. I have counted three yesterday and today. Now I am inclined to think that there were a pair and four young - As soon as my skins come back from Frazar's I am going to have you look at them as they may be young birds and not adults as I supposed.

We are suffering from the drought - Nothing but dust and scorched leaves.

Sincerely

John E. Dayer

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass., July 19th 1912

Dear Mr. Brewster

You will no doubt be interested to know that two other men have reported having seen black squirrels in Lancaster. Curiously enough neither one of them had heard of my "adventure".

My brother-in-law, Eli Forbes told me that he remembers 40 years ago the whole town of Clinton was greatly excited over the appearance of a Black Squirrel, which was never shot.

I will have one yet — what a glorious rain we had!

Sincerely

John E. Thayer

Maplehurst Farm,
Lancaster, Mass., Jan. 30 - 1913

Dear Mr. Brewster

I thank you for writing to me about the Hawk Owl. I have sent young Beacon $5. He is a son of a class mate of mine.

Snow-drops and Dandelions in bloom - I shall certainly plant my peas soon.

Sincerely Yours
John L. Bates

THAYER MUSEUM
LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS

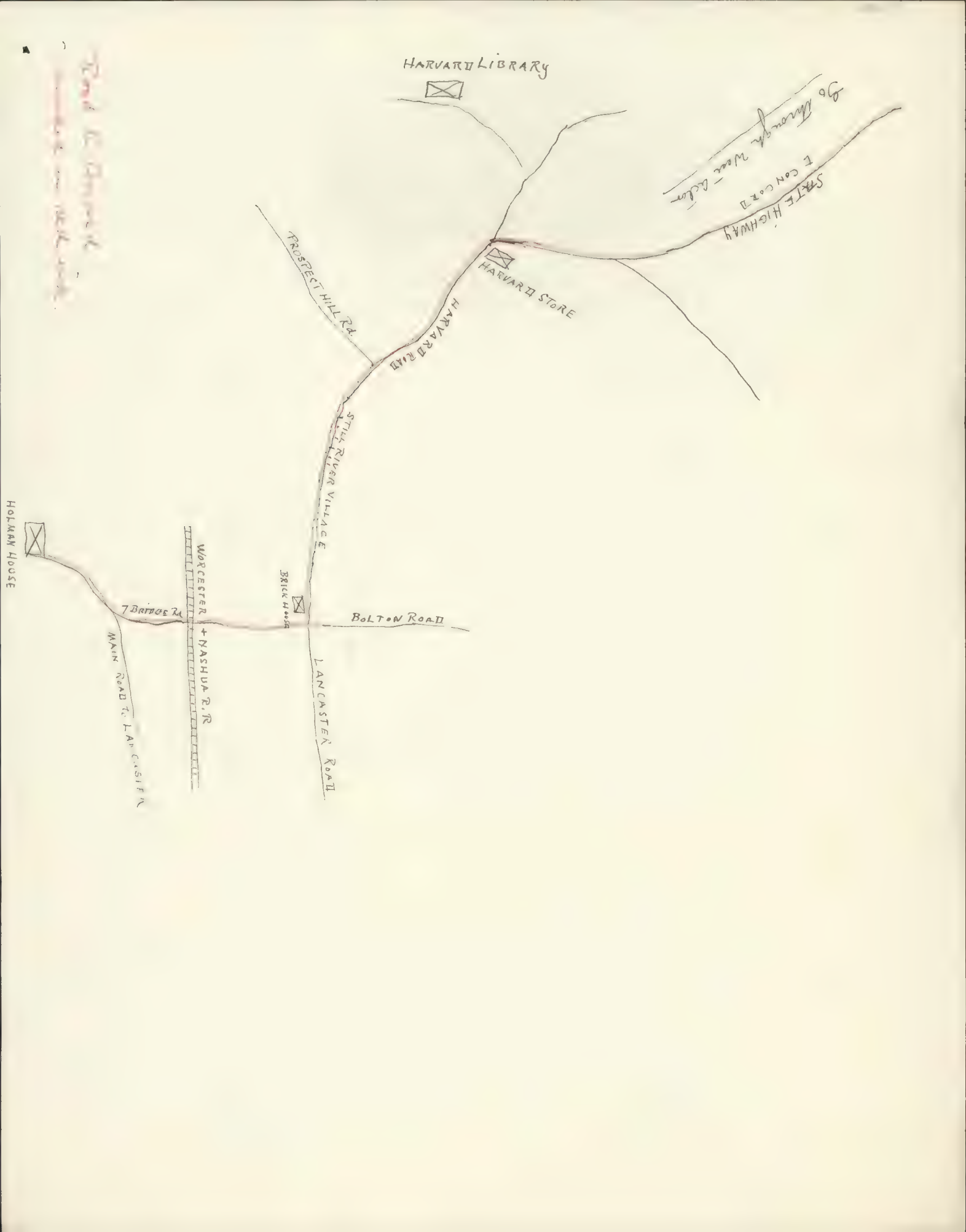
October 23. 1913

Dear Mrs. Brewster

On the other side of this paper is a plan of the shortest route from Lancaster to Concord. When you once get on to the State Highway road to Concord it is very easy to find your way. I hope you will have no difficulty in deciphering my very poor map.

Sincerely Yours

John E. Thayer


HARVARD LIBRARY
STATE HIGHWAY
PROSPECT HILL Rd.
HARVARD RIAD
HARVARD STORE
STILL RIVER VILLAGE
BRICK HOUSE
BOLTON ROAD
LANCASTER ROAD
WORCESTER + NASHUA R.R
7 BRIDGE Rd
HOLMAN HOUSE

Hapleburst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass. Nov 12 1914

Dear Mr. Brewster

You were perfectly right about "Sam" I purchased him of a farmer in Andover, Maine in the Spring of 1878. He was seen by this man in a field and he caught him, as he couldn't fly, but very little, being too young and feeble. There were little pinfeathers down on his head. I always thought that the bird flew down from some high cliff near Andover (and there are several) as he couldn't rise up again. He was much too young I know to have flown very far.

You may also remember that "Sam" laid two eggs, both are in my collection.

Sincerely

Wm E. Hayes

George Hill Road,
Lancaster, Mass. July 7th 1915

Mr. Bunster

I wish you would come up and lunch with me either Saturday or Sunday and bring anyone you wish. I have something that is very interesting to show you.

In Herbert Parker's aviary, there is a White-crowned Sparrow with a nest and three eggs; a White-throated Sparrow, a Pine Grosbeak and two Canaries, all incubating. One Pine Grosbeak has built a nest in an old tin pan, the size of a Sharp-shinned Hawk's; but there are no eggs in this nest.

These nests are well worth seeing. Both Mrs Reyer and I are anxious to see you.

Sincerely
Wm E. Reyer

P.S. I'd rather be delighted to have you come Saturday with us. If you can. Perhaps W. Blair & Spaunt could appear again. I can climb better now than I could two years ago.

Skins (22)
& b. s. bone
from Thorpe T.S.9
W.B.

George Hill Road,
Lancaster, Mass., Feb. 7 1916

Dear Mr. Brewster

I would like to have the Birtwell birds very much so I have most of his collection. The new subspecies I think were passed on and not allowed several years ago.

I think Mrs. Birtwell sent these birds to you to examine on Dr. Chadbourne's recommendation.

I don't know what has become of Mrs. Birtwell. I have not heard from her for twelve years.

I still have my Brown Thrasher. I am trying to photograph him, surrounded in snow.

Sincerely
John E. Page

George Hill Road,
Lancaster, Mass., Feb. 16 1916

Dear Mr. Brewster

Thank you very much for sending the Baltimore bird. I hope I did not put you to too much trouble.

I thought I had written you about my Brown Thrasher. He has been on my place all winter and stays in a blue spruce in front of my greenhouse. Curiously enough, two years ago I had a Brown Thrasher that wintered in the same tree (I recorded it in The Auk) Could it be possible that it is the same bird?

Sincerely

John E. Thayer

George Hill Road,

Lancaster, Mass., Feb. 21st 1916

Dear Mr. Brewster

I am glad you like the cider. Occasionally a bottle ferments, but it is simply because the cap is not put on tight enough. We can remedy this another year. I have some two years old that is just as sweet as if it were just put up.

I write to tell you that four Evening Grosbeaks were on my place on Sunday (Feb 20th) Mrs. Thayer saw them and was very much excited as she didn't know what they were. When I came from church she showed them to me. There was a fine adult male and three females or young males. They were gone the next day.

I fed the Brown Thrasher today. He is fat and hearty. He doesn't seem to mind the cold weather at all.

Sincerely John E. Thayer

MH 652.10.2

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass., Nov 4th 1900

My dear Mr. Deane

The Barn Owl was shot by a son of Chas. K. Reed, the Worcester Taxidermist, who sexed and mounted the bird.

I had a most delightful visit from Mr. Brewster. The only fault I have to find that it was too short.

I regret to say that I shall be South during the A. O. U. meeting. I feel very badly about it; but I can't get out of going.

Sincerely Yours

John E. Rayer

P.S. We move to Boston next week. 17 Gloucester St is my address.

Thayer, John E.
Nov. 4, 1900

(re Barn Owl)

Maplehurst Farm,

Lancaster, Mass., July 4th 1904

My dear Mr. Deane

I am following your advice and going slow with my list of 16. Do get Mr. Brewster's opinion!

Here is your list!

W.B.'s list ↙

✓	1	Wilson ↙
✓	2	Bonaparte ↙
+	3	Swainson
+	4	Richardson ↙
✓	5	Nuttall ↙
✓	6	Audubon ↙
+	7	MacGillivray
✓	8	Baird ↙
✓	9	Cassin ↙
✓	10	Lawrence ↙
✓	11	Brewer ↙
✓	12	Bendire ↙
✓	13	Coues ↙
✓	14	Ridgway ↙
✓	15.	Allen ↙
	16	Brewster
Merriam		Beckman ↙
		Townsend ↙
		Nelson ↙

Shouldn't Townsend's name come into this list?

I agree with your brother in regard to Swainson, Richardson and MacGillivray, but I think Brewer should be on the list. I certainly think Nelson's name should appear.

I do hope you will be able to come sometime in August and make us a visit. Come whenever you can, we shall all be delighted to see you.

Please give my kind regards to Mrs Deane and tell her I rely upon her to make you come.

Sincerely

John E. Thayer

P.S. I was terribly disappointed to miss Mr. Brewster's call; unfortunately I was in Boston that day.

Thayer, John E.
July 4, 104.